

## Economic Growth Region 8 Profile

Economic Growth Region 8 is located in the rolling hills of south central Indiana. The eight counties in Region 8 include: Brown, Daviess, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange and Owen. The Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is located in this region. Greene, Monroe and Owen counties join to form the Bloomington MSA. Orange County attracts tourists to historical hotels at French Lick Springs and West Baden Springs. This region is also home to Indiana's largest inland lake and only National Forest.

Region 8's population for 2007 was 304,136, up 2.8 percent from the 2000 Census total. During this time period, Indiana's total 2007 estimated population of 6,345,289 was up by 4.4 percent. Monroe and Lawrence are the two most populous counties in the region with 128,643 and 46,033 residents respectively. Monroe and Owen counties accounted for the largest population gains in the region between 2000 and 2007. County seats in the region are: Bloomington in Monroe County, Bedford in Lawrence County, Bloomfield in Greene County, Nashville in Brown County, Paoli in Orange County, Shoals in Martin County, Spencer in Owen County and Washington in Daviess County.

Based on Indiana Department of Revenue Indiana IT-40 returns a total of 30,186 workers or 16.4 percent of the workforce commuted into Region 8 in 2007. Morgan County sent the most workers into the region. Conversely, 37,636 or 19.6 percent of the labor force commuted to work outside of the region. Bartholomew County received the most workers from Region 8.

In 2007, an average annual total of 6,620 firms provided an estimated 117,708 jobs within the region. Three major industry sectors, education & health services (includes public schools and medical facilities), government and trade, transportation & utilities dominated the region in terms of employment. These three industry sectors accounted for 69 percent of the region's 2007 industry employment. The largest employing industry in the region was education & health services (both public and private) which had 32,441 jobs or 28 percent of the total industry employment. The industry showing the most growth in jobs since 2001 was education & health services, increasing 3,549 jobs or 12.3 percent.

The 2007 all-industry average earnings for Region 8 were \$32,493, up \$5,237 or 19.2 percent over the region's 2001 average. The State of Indiana's all-industry annual average was \$37,528. In Region 8, natural resources & mining had the highest average earnings at \$50,797 per year in 2007. The State's natural resources & mining industry wage averaged \$38,179 in 2007. Annual earnings in natural resources & mining increased the most between 2001 and 2007, up \$9,872 to \$50,797 or 24.1 percent.

Source of Employment and Wage Data: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

Kim Stevenson, Regional Analyst  
(812) 234-6602 x327  
[kstevenson@dwd.in.gov](mailto:kstevenson@dwd.in.gov)

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